and 2,500 were delayed due to consequential reasons. The average duration of delay was about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Late running of 355 Itarsi-Jhansi passenger train

1741. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 355 Down Itarsi-Jhansi passenger train on the Central Railway has been running late regularly from the originating station for the last three years; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to run this train in time regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Punctuality of train has not been satisfactory due to on-going electrification works on the section.

(b) Electrification having been completed upto Itarsi the punctuality is likely to improve.

Interview for post Graduate Teachers by K.V.S.

1742. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some additional candidates are being called for interview for the posts of Post Graduate Teachers by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, whether the cut off marks have been reduced; and

(c) if so, what is the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) For recruitment of Teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas, Kendria Vidyalaya Sangathan draws up a select panel larger than the declared number of vacancies. Number of candidates called for interview is in the ratio of 1:8. The cut off marks are determined accordingly.

Age of superannuation of teaching and non-teaching staff of K.V.S.

1743. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the age of superannuation of teaching and non-teaching staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to change it;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the dates from which the changes will come into force in respect of non-teaching and teaching staff?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The age of superannuation of Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is 60 years.

(b) and (c) In the Central Government, the age of retirement for non-teaching staff has been 58 years and that for teaching staff was 60. Based on a review of different ages of retirement for the teaching staff of the schools under different Central Government Departments, Government of India decided in 1988 that in all these institutions the age of retirement for teachers would be 58 years. However, such of those teachers as enjoy the benefit of retirement at 60 years would get protection for this benefit. In other words, the new stipulation for retirement at 58 years of age shall apply only to future entrants.

While extending to the employees of autonomous organisations, the benefits of revised pay scales based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, it was felt that the same should be extended to them subject to